Claims

5

10

15

20

25

30

- A nutritional composition comprising a combination of a least one substance selected from the group consisting of specific fats or non-digestible oligosaccharides, associated with at least one microorganism, in an amount efficient to induce a pattern of gut barrier maturation similar to that observed with breast-feeding.
- 2. A nutritional composition according to claim 1, further improving gut barrier maturation, ensuring an optimal barrier function in infants and/or maintaining gut barrier homeostasis.
- 3. A composition according to any of preceding claims, wherein said microorganism is Lactobacilli, Bifidobacteria, Streptococci, Pediococci, Enterococci, Lactococci, Oenococci, Staphylococci, Bacteroides, yeasts or mixtures thereof.
- 4. A composition according to any of preceding claims, wherein the microorganism is Bifidobacterium CNCM I-2170, Bifidobacterium CNCM I-2168, Bifidobacterium CNCM I-2169, Lactobacillus johnsonii CNCM I-1225, Lactobacillus paracasei CNCM I-2116, Bifidobacterium lactis ATCC 27536, Bifidobacterium longum BB536 or mixtures thereof.
- 5. A composition according to any of preceding claims, wherein the non digestible oligosaccharides are selected in the group of fructo-oligosaccharides, galacto-oligosaccharides, sialo-oligosaccharides, xylo-oligosaccharides, inulin, arabic gum, guar gum, resistant starch and/or milk-derived oligosaccharides.
- 6. A composition according to any of preceding claims, wherein the specific fats are lipids LC-PUFA, such as arachidonic acid (AA) or docosahexanoic acid (DHA), or gangliosides such as those contained in delactosed whey from buffalo milk.

WO 2004/112509
PCT/EP2004/006736

7. A composition according to any of preceding claims, wherein the composition is in the form of a product acceptable to the consumer, such as an ingestible carrier or support, such carriers or supports being a pharmaceutical or a food or pet food composition.

8. A composition according to any of preceding claims, wherein the composition is in the form of a complete diet, a supplement or a medicament.

10

15

20

25

- 9. A composition according to any of preceding claims, wherein the composition is a low birth weight, a starter or a follow-up infant formula or a baby food.
- 10. Use of a combination of a least one substance selected from the group consisting of specific fats or non digestible oligosaccharides, associated with a microorganism, for the preparation of a composition intended for maintaining gut barrier homeostasis after physical or psychological stress.
- 11. Use of a combination of a least one substance selected from the group consisting of specific fats or non-digestible oligosaccharides, associated with a microorganism, for the preparation of a composition intended for inducing a pattern of gut barrier maturation similar to that observed with breast-feeding.
- 12. Use according to claim 10 or 11, further ensuring an optimal barrier function in infants.
- 13. Use according to claim 10 or 11, further reducing the risk of developing allergy and infection.
- 14. The use according to any of preceding claims, wherein the composition is according to any of claims 1 to 9.